GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5338
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
WLL SERVICE IN RURAL AREAS
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after its expansion WLL service is not available in the rural areas and people are facing difficulties due to poor coverage; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) As on 31st March, 2008, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) services in 2,580 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) out of 2,642 SDCAs in the country.

(b) Following steps are being taken for making available WLL services in the rural areas and for removing difficulties of people due to poor coverage:-

(i) BSNL has added 20 lakh lines (2,949 towers) in its network during the year 2007-08 for strengthening of coverage.

(ii) Most of the SDCAs shall be covered on WLL by June, 2008 except few SDCAs which are technically/commercially non-feasible.